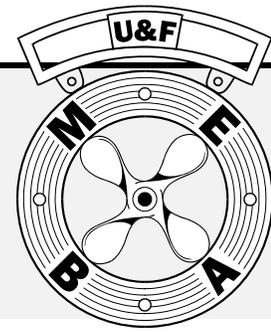


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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*MARCH 2021*



## **Legislation Introduced Permitting Alaskan Cruise Ships to Sail Despite Canadian Port Closures**

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, Transport Canada announced an Interim Order to prohibit passenger vessels carrying more than 100 people from operating in Canadian waters until February 28, 2022.

In response, Representative Don Young (R-AK) introduced a bill that would serve as a temporary workaround by deeming roundtrip voyages between the states of Alaska and Washington as “foreign voyages” under U.S. law. Currently, the Passenger Vessel Service Act (PSVA) prohibits foreign-flagged cruise ships from allowing passengers to board at one U.S. port and immediately disembarking at another U.S. port. While Congressman Young’s legislation was offered as an amendment to the recent COVID-19 economic relief package, the language was not included and did not advance.

However, Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Ranking Member Sam Graves (R-MO) of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee leadership recently penned a bipartisan letter to the Ambassador of Canada to the United States encouraging the government of Canada and the U.S. to “find a mutually agreeable solution.” In the letter, the committee proposed permitting stops in Canada without disembarking passengers, serving as a technical fix to meet the cabotage requirements.

“It is our hope that this solution would both address the important health concerns of Canadian authorities and allow cruises to resume with the approval of the U.S. Government authorities when it is deemed safe to do so,” the Committee members wrote to the Ambassador.

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